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Diana T Fritz 12/19/2006 04:36:19 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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Text:

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 04755

SIPDIS
CXABU:

ACTION: PAO
INFO: ECON POL AMB DCM

DISSEMINATION: PAO
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: APAO:DEDGINTON
DRAFTED: PAO:AHOSHAN
CLEARED: POL:JMAYBURY

VZCZCADI947
OO RUEHC RUENAAA RUEKJCS RUEHZM RUEHLO RUEHFR
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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7434
INFO RUENAAA/SECNAV WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0866
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0905
RHRMDAB/COMUSNAVCENT
RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA//
RUCQSOC/USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL//PA//

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SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARPI; NEA/PPD; NEA/RA; INR/R/MR; PA;
INR/NESA; INR/B; IIP/G/NEA-SA
WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE; NSC
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA
USCINCCENT FOR POLAD
LONDON PASS TO MOC, ALSO FOR GOLDRICH; PARIS FOR ZEYA

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, LONDON
CONFERENCE, PALESTINIAN ELECTIONS

1. SUMMARY: THE FOCUS OF EDITORIALS IN ARABIC AND ENGLISH DAILIES COVERED A WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES. "AL-ITTIHAD" CRITICIZED ISRAEL'S EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE AGAINST THE PALESTINIANS AND CALLED ON THE WORLD COMMUNITY AND COUNTRIES SPONSORING THE PEACE PROCESS TO FORCE ISRAEL TO ABIDE BY UN RESOLUTIONS. "AL-KHALEEJ" DESCRIBED SHARON AND BUSH'S AVOIDANCE OF AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED FRAMEWORK FOR A SETTLEMENT IN THE REGION AS AN EFFORT TO BLOCK THE PEACE EFFORT. "GULF NEWS" SUPPORTED THE RESULTS OF THE PALESTINIAN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AND INDIRECTLY COMMENDED ISRAEL'S NEUTRAL POSITION ON THE ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. COMMENTING ON SHARON'S USE OF EXCESSIVE FORCE IN DEALING WITH THE PALESTINIANS, SEMI-OFFICIAL ABU DHABI-BASED ARABIC DAILY "AL-ITTIHAD" 12/26 EDITORIALIZED:

"IT HAS BEEN PROVEN TO SHARON, THE ISRAELI RIGHT AND THE WORLD COMMUNITY THAT THE PROBLEM CANNOT BE SOLVED WITH EXCESSIVE FORCE OR VIOLENCE. SECURITY HAS NOT BEEN ACHIEVED FOR THE ISRAELIS, NOR HAS PEACE BEEN REALIZED IN THE REGION. HOWEVER, SHARON AND THE ISRAELI RIGHT INSIST ON A MILITARY SOLUTION. THIS PAINFUL SITUATION COMPELS THE WORLD COMMUNITY AND NATIONS THAT ARE SPONSORING THE PEACE PROCESS TO MOVE QUICKLY AND FORCE THE ISRAELIS TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL LAWS AND ACCORDS THAT WERE

REACHED WITH THE PALESTINIANS, BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE."

13. COMMENTING ON THE CONFERENCE INITIATED BY BRITISH PRIME MINISTER TONY BLAIR, SHARJAH-BASED PAN-ARAB DAILY "AL-KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED 12/26:

".BECAUSE SHARON AND BUSH WERE NOT CONVINCED ABOUT THE CONFERENCE, BLAIR RESORTED TO REDUCING ITS SCOPE. THIS LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT THE U.S. AND ISRAEL DO NOT DESIRE A BREAKTHROUGH ON THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE WITHIN AN INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK. IN FACT, THEY DO NOT GIVE THIS ISSUE ANY PRIORITY. THEREFORE, A CALL FOR ANOTHER CONFERENCE IS A STEP IN THE WRONG DIRECTION, AND AN ATTEMPT TO SIGNAL THAT THE PROBLEM LIES IN THE PALESTINIAN SIDE, AND NOT WITH THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION.. IT IS THE DUTY OF THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY NOT TO CONSIDER BLAIR'S CONFERENCE AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, AND NOT ATTACH TO IT UNWARRANTED IMPORTANCE IN THE FACE OF AN ISRAELI PARTNER THAT VIOLATES INTERNATIONAL LAWS, PEACE INITIATIVES AND BILATERAL ACCORDS, THE LAST OF WHICH WAS THE ROADMAP."

14. COMMENTING ON PALESTINIAN ELECTIONS, THE DUBAI-BASED ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILY "GULF NEWS" EDITORIALIZED 12/27:

THE PALESTINIAN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS HAVE DRAWN TO A CLOSE SO SILENTLY THAT SOME MAY HAVE BEEN WONDERING IF THEY EVER TOOK PLACE. BUT THEY DID, AND HAMAS HAS SHOWN ITSELF TO BE REMARKABLY WELL PLACED, HAVING SECURED AROUND 50 PER CENT OF THE 26 LOCAL COUNCILS WHERE RACES WERE HELD. PALESTINIANS CAME THROUGH THIS TEST SUCCESSFULLY. AND WITH ISRAEL STANDING BACK AND ALLOWING THE ELECTIONS TO TAKE PLACE, IT IS HOPED THE SUCCESS WILL BE REPEATED ON JANUARY 9, WHEN THE PRESIDENTIAL VOTE IS DUE TO TAKE PLACE."

ALBRIGHT